

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1137

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07284

DEPARTMENT PASS AF POSTS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OCON, US, UK, RH, SF, XA

SUBJECT: ANGLO-AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS CONFERENCE ON
AFRICA

SUMMARY. MAIN ITEMS OF DISCUSSION AT TENTH ANNUAL ANGLO-
AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS CONFERENCE ON AFRICA (JUNE 5-
9) WERE: A) INCREASING NECESSITY FOR NEW US AND UK
ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH BLACK AFRICA;
B) RHODESIA; C) SOUTH AFRICA; D) PORTUGUESE AFRICA; E)
AID TO BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES; AND F) THE FUTURE OF
NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

1. RHODESIA. BRITISH PARTICIPANTS GAVE GREAT DEAL OF
ATTENTION TO STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO ASSIST IN ENDING
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REBELLION BY EXPEDITING NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN IAN

SMITH AND ANC LEADER BISHOP MUZOREWA. CONFEREES AGREED THAT UK LEVERAGE NOT VERY GREAT BUT THAT US AND UK HAD NONETHELESS SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY BY TIGHTENING SANCTIONS AND MAKING SURE SMITH AWARE HIS POSITION DETERIORATING BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE. US REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED THAT REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT WOULD REQUIRE STRONG SUPPORT FROM TOP LEVELS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH REPUBLICAN HOUSE LEADERSHIP. THERE WAS UNANIMITY ON DESIRABILITY OF REPEAL AS MEANS OF URGING SMITH TOWARD NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. AS AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS THERE WAS CONDEMNATION OF COVERT SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS BY JAPANESE. ANOTHER SUGGESTED STEP THAT US AND UK MIGHT TAKE WAS TO ENCOURAGE SAG TO ADVISE SMITH TO REACH SETTLEMENT AND TO LET HIM KNOW HE COULD EXPECT NO RPT NO FURTHER MILITARY HELP FROM SOUTH AFRICA (SEPTTEL). A FURTHER SUGGESTION WAS THAT UK AND US CONSIDER WAYS TO PROVIDE DISCREET ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ANC AND MUZOREWA.

2. SOUTH AFRICA. DISCUSSION STARTED OUT WITH POSING OF POLICY OPTIONS OF COMPLETE DISENGAGEMENT OR FURTHER EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE SAG VIA CONTINUED DIALOGUE. THERE WAS HOWEVER GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IF US AND UK ARE TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS IN BLACK AFRICA, BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL "HAVE TO GET OFF THE FENCE" AND TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONDEMNATION OF APARTHEID AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE. PARTICIPANTS FROM FOREIGN OFFICE AND MP'S PRIVATELY EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT CURRENT REVIEW OF POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BY HMG WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN UK TAKING FURTHER AS YET UNDEFINED STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION; GREATLY EXPANDED TRADE EMBARGO OR DISENGAGEMENT FROM EXISTING INVESTMENT WERE HOWEVER RULED OUT AS "UNREALISTIC." PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTION TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN MOZAMBIQUE BUT CONCLUDED THIS UNLIKELY AT PRESENT STAGE.

3. PORTUGUESE AFRICA. HMG OFFICIALS AND LABOR PARTY MP'S PUT GREAT EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF US AND UK SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES IN HIS EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICA. THERE WAS ALSO STRONG SUPPORT FOR EXPANDING CONTACTS BY USG AND HMG WITH PRINCIPAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, PAIGC, FRELIMO, FNLA AND MPLA. AS WITH OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS, SUCH STEP WAS SEEN AS ESSENTIAL IF TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS NOT ONLY IN AREAS AFFECTED BUT IN ALL OF BLACK AFRICA.

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TORIES IN AFRICA. THERE WAS ALSO STRONG SUPPORT FOR EXPANDING CONTACTS BY USG AND HMG WITH PRINCIPAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, PAIGC, FRELIMO, FNLA AND MPLA. AS WITH OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS, SUCH STEP WAS SEEN AS ESSENTIAL IF TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS NOT ONLY IN AREAS AFFECTED BUT IN ALL OF BLACK AFRICA.

4. AID. CONFEREES, WHILE ADMITTING PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR

INCREASED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE,ACKNOWLEDGED STRENGTH OF
OPPOSITION AND/OR INDIFFERENCE BY VOTERS. SEVERAL PAR-
TICIPANTS ADVOCATED GREATER LEADERSHIP BY LEGISLATORS BUT
THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS ON HOW THIS MIGHT BE ORCHESTRATED.
ONE STATEMENT THAT EEC DEVELOPMENT FUND COULD BE USED TO
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WHILE BYPASSING CONFRONTA-
TIONS IN NATIONAL LEGISLATURES WAS STRONGLY ATTACKED BY
BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIANS. FUTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT AS-
SISTANCE THROUGH INCREASED TRADE AND INVESTMENT AND
THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN AID PROGRAMS BY DEVELOPING

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COUNTRIES GROWN RICH THROUGH OIL WAS SEEN AS MORE PROMIS-

ING THAN THROUGH CONTINUING BILATERAL ASSISTANCE BY US
AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

5. NAMIBIA. THERE WAS UNANIMITY AMONG CONGRESSMEN AND
PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT US AND UK FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR
LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN BLACK AFRICA SHOULD FIND SOME WAY
TO END IMPASSE ON EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT UN DECISION ON
NAMIBIA. QUESTION OF ROLE OF US AND UK INVESTMENTS WAS
DISCUSSED AT LENGTH BUT INCONCLUSIVELY. IN ANSWER TO
SUGGESTION THAT US SHOULD JOIN IN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM COMMENTED THAT QUESTION WAS
UNDER STUDY.

6. ATMOSPHERICS' DISCUSSIONS AND INFORMAL MEETINGS WERE
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CHARACTERIZED BY: A) GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT ERA
WHEN FORMER METROPOLES COULD PLAY KEY ROLE IN SETTLEMENT
OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS FROM ARMED CONFLICT TO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT HAD DEFINITELY ENDED AND FUTURE OF AFRICA
WILL BE DECIDED ON THAT CONTINENT; B) A CONVICTION THAT
TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE LEDING TO STABILITY AND
DEVELOPMENT , AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS WILL HAVE TO SPEND
A GREAT DEAL MORE OF THEIR TIME IN LISTENING TO AFRICAN
LEADERS; C) RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE USG AND HMG TO SHOW
MORE TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF COLONIZED
TERRITORIES AND FOR MAJORITY RULE IN ORDER TO PROTECT US
AND UK INTERESTS IN FACE OF GROWING PRESSURES FROM BLACK
AFRICAN STATES; D) THE RECOGNITION THAT LACK OF PUBLIC
ENTHUSIASM FOR OR INTEREST IN FOREIGN AID WILL DOUBTLESS
FURTHER REDUCE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AFRICA.

7. PARTICIPATION. US REPRESENTED BY TWO SENATORS (MOSS
AND MCGEE), SIX CONGRESSMEN (FRASER, DIGGS, WHALEN,
BIESTER, GUDE, BINGHAM), ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM AND
REPRESENTATIVES FROM JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY AND THE
FOUNDATIONS SPONSORING CONFERENCE (FORD AND CARNEGIE).
FROM UK THERE WERE 11 MP'S, TWO FCO DEPUTY UNDER SECRE-
TARIES, FONSEC CALLAGHAN'S POLITICAL ADVISOR, A MEMBER
OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, THE AFRICA
CORRESPONDENT OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES AND MALCOLM
MACDONALD, FORMER SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN EAST AFRICA.
MAURICE FOLEY, FORMER MP AND CURRENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION AT THE EEC, ALSO
TOOK ACTIVE ROLE IN DELIBERATIONS.

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